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Editorial Note:

Gaspero Balbi, an Italian travelling to Southeast Asia in the sixteenth century, has left for us a valuable account of Burma during the reign of Bayinnaung. This account was originally published in English as “Gaspero Balbi his Voyage to Pegu, and observations there, gathered out of his owne Italian Relation,” in Samuel Purchas (ed.), *Hakluytus Posthumus or Purchas His Pilgrimes Contayning a History of the World in Sea Voyages and Lande Travells by Englishmen and Others*, volume 10 (1626). Much of the narrative, however, covered his journal to the country, without reference to Burma, and this portion has been left out of the following version. According to the original editor’s introduction, Balbi, a Venetian jeweller, began his journey east with a caravan from Aleppo towards the Bagdet and the East Indies on the 13th of December 1579. He would not reach Burma for another three and a half years. We do not know precisely how long he remained or when, indeed, he left Burma, for the available version of his narrative was left out of the *Hakluytus Posthumus* volume, for, as the original editor explained:

“Our Author proceedeth In large discourses of this Countreie, and the occurrents of that time, which (so much as is necessary) we have in some of our other Peguan Relators, Frederike, Fitch, or the Jesuites, and are therefore here omitted.”

M.W. C.

Voyage to Pegu, and Observations There, Circa 1583

Gaspero Balbi

On the thirteenth of September, 1583. in the name Jesus Christ, after wee had laded our merchandise, and payd our Customes, we went a shipboord; And having sailed untill the three and twentieth of this moneth, we found our selves neere to Maccareo, it is very strange which is reported of the ebbings and Rowings of the water, and certainly he which hath not scene them will scarcely beleeeve them; Certalne Pilots goe from Martovan, as swift as an Arrow in the encreasing of the water, as long as the Floud lasteth, and the Tide being at the height, they turne out of the chanell, and there ride; when the water is fallen on drie land ; and the bore or tide comes as some great tree: and in such a time they oppose the Prow against it, and so expect the furie of the water, which resembleth the noise of a great Earthquake: so that maugre their strength and skill the Barke is washed from head to stearne, and with that violence is carried swiftly into the chanell. After that, the winde blew from the South-west, and wee sailed to the North-west, till the morning, when we found our selves at Bara, right over Negrais (they call so in their language the Haven which goeth into Pegu) where wee discovered on the left side of the River a Pagod or Varella all gilded over, which is seene afarre off by the vessels that come from the Maine, and especially when the Sunne shines, which makes it glister round about as farre as it is seene. And because the raine washeth it often and consumeth the gold, the men of that place often regild it, that the ships by the splendor thereof may have this benefit, to know

the Haven: and they doe it for devotion and reverence to the place. Wee then all rejoyced at that time, and made merrie; because we considered that if we had arrived there foure or five dayes later we could not have entred the Haven by reason of the continual winds which blowe there with great furie.

Then casting anchor, to expect the floud, so to shunne some Rockes which are under the water: we saw a place very curiously adorned with Bowers and a Church (where the Talipois reside, which are there as the Friers with us) where the people of this Countrie assemble to pray. It is reported that in this place there are abundance of Tigres which devoure the men and beasts of the Countrie. On the foure and twentieth of September, there came a little Barke neere us called a Salangara, whereby the Captaine of our ship sent a Portugall with a present to the King, to give him notice of our arrivall, and the evening following wee drew neere to the Hand of Flies, so called of the multitudes of them there caused from the abundance of fish there salted, wherewith also we furnished our ship.

In the meane time the ship went to Cosmi; to the Lord of the Countrie, who sent twenty Boats with eight Oares a piece, and a royall Almadie, which is a certaine long Barke, rowed with many Oares, and it beganne to put forth, and two dayes after the Lord of Cosmi came together with the ship, who presented our Moorish Captaine with great faire Hennes, of a very good taste, and many Oranges, which growe in great quantitie in the Countrie. The said Lord was rowed in a Barke made very fantastically, it was of the length of a Foist; but so narrow that in the middle it seemed not to be above one pace over, at the head and stearne it was as narrow as our Gondolos; but it was very high, and there were more then an hundred Rowers, which rowe at the side with an hundred Oares like stickes, and they did observe in their rowing to draw the water towards them all together by reason of foure Trumpeters, which sound when they should rowe, and sit in the middle of the Barke; the Signior was in a high Cabbिन made in the middle of the Boat covered after the manner of the middle part of a Gondolo, but greater, with a Port before to shut, and open as he pleaseth.

Now the fift of October we came to Cosmi, whose Territories on both sides are woody, and frequented with Parrots, Tigres, wilde Boares, Apes, and such like creatures. Cosmi is seated in 16. degrees and a third part, and hath the houses made of great Indian canes, and covered with straw, fronted towards the North-east, scituate in a very fine place, but subject to the ravening of Tigres, which often enter into the Towne, and catch men and beasts, and devoure them; but this they doe in the night, for they abide in the Woods all day.

Wee departed from Cosmi the sixe and twentieth of October, with a little Paro, which is to say, a voyage Barke, having committed our merchandise to the Guardian of the great Paro, and sayling down the River, at even we arrived at a Village on the left hand of the River called Pain Perlon; and about three of the clocke the next morning at Marma Mala, and about the evening before a great Citie on the left hand of the River called Jaccubel; and an houre after at another on the right side called Tegiatden. The morning following we came to a place called Balatin, where they make Pots and Jarres of excellent fine earth, and a little after we saw Dian a fertile Countrie, plentifull in timber both for Houses, Ships, and Barkes, where they have certaine vessels like Galeasses, which have on both sides from head to sterne Cabbins with divers merchandises, and in the middle in stead of the Mast there is a house like ours, so that within them they traffique for store of Muske, Benjamin, and divers Jewels.

On the nine and twentieth day we saw the Land of Bedogiamana, Lagapala, and Purdabui, and the evening wee came to a great Countrie called Gungiebui, where wee tarried with great feare of being assaulted by theeves, who under the shew of friendship betray dispersed passingers; and in like manner we avoyded the danger of the multitude of Tigres, which in these parts assaile men, and destroy as many as they can get. For this cause we strengthned our selves in the middle of the River; yet they report, that the fiercenesse of this creature is such that he will prey in the water. The day following wee went in a narrow River like our Brent by Padua, which is shadowed with Paime trees that growe in great abundance in both sides of the River; there is the great Citie of Coilan, which is a league long on each side, which being a perfect square make twelve of our miles. After that, we came by another Citie called Tuvaguedan, where are many Pagods and Statues; and at evening we arrived at Leungon a very faire Citie, seated in a pleasant Territorie, I replenished with Palme trees: parting from thence after wee had scene many buildings on both sides of the River, about morning we came to a great populous Citie called Silvansedi, and at evening before another called Moggio where were infinite store of great and small vessels, all covered from head to sterne with straw, within which are the families of one house, so that they serve for convenient habitations, they use to drinke in them hot waters made of Rice, as strong as our Aquavitæ, these Barkes sell fresh fish, and salted and dressed in divers fashions, and other sorts of provision, so that along that River, to the mouth of the Sea, which is fresh water, they may sayle without carrying any victuals, but only money to spend.

The second of November we came to the Citie of Dala, where besides other things are ten large roomes full of Elephants which are kept there by divers servants of the King of Pegu. The day following we came to the faire Citie of Dogon, it is finely seated, and fronted towards the South-west, and where they land are twenty long steps, as from the Pillar of Saint Marke to the Straw-bridge, the matter of them is strong and great pieces of timber, and there are great currents of water both at ebbe and floud, because it is a place neere Maccareo, which entreth and goeth out of the mouth of Sirian, which is a Sea-port: and alwais when the water encreaseth, they goe upon the Staires: and when it is ebbe, it discovers all about, and makes it a great way drie land. On both sides the River, at the end of the banke, or at the staires, is a wooden Tigre, very great, and painted after the naturall colour of a Tigre; and there are two others in the midst of the staires, so farre one from another, that they seeme to share the staires equally. They stand with open mouth, shewing their teeth and tongue, with their clawes lifted up and stretched forth, prepared to assaile him that lookes on them.

Concerning these they told mee a foolish beliefe which they have, that they stand there to guard, for if any should be so bold to displease the Pagod, those Tigers should defend him, for he would give them life. After we were landed we began to goe on the right hand in a large street about fifty paces broad, in which wee saw wooden houses gilded, and adorned with delicate gardens after their custome, wherein their Talapoïs, which are their Friars, dwell, and looke to the Pagod, or Varella of Dogon. The left side is furnished with Portals and Shops, very like the new Procuratia at Venice: and by this street they goe towards the Varella, for the space of a good mile straight forwards, either under painthouses, or in the open street, which is free to walke in. When we came at the Varella, we found a paire of staires of ninety steps, as long in my judgement as the chanell of the Rialto at Venice. At the foot of the first staire are two Tigres, one at the right hand, and the other at the left, these are of stone, and stand in the same fashion that they doe on the shoare-side. The staires are divided into three, the first is forty steps, the second thirty, and the third twenty, and at the top of each of them is a plaine spacious place. On the last step are Angels of stone, each with three Crowns one upon the other; but so, that that

which is undermost is the greatest, and that which is next lesser then that, yet greater then the uppermost, which is the least. They have the right hand lifted up, ready to give the benediction, with two fingers stretched out. The other hand of the one is layd upon the head of a Childe, and of the other upon the head of an Ape; those Statues are all of stone. At the right hand is a Varella gilded in a round forme, made of stone, and as much *in compasse* as the streete before the Venetian Palace, if it were round: and the height may equall Saint Markes Bell-tower, not the top of it, but the little Pinnaces. At the left hand is a faire Hall carved and gilded within and without. And this is the place of devotion, whither the people goe to heare the Talapois preach: the streete is greater then Saint Markes, at the least larger. And this is a place of great devotion amongst them, and yeerely multitudes of people come by Sea and by Land. And when they celebrate a solemne Feast, the King in person goeth before them all, and with him the Qyeene, the Prince, and his other sonnes, with a great traine of Nobles and others, who goe to get a pardon. And on this day there is a great Mart where are all sorts of merchandises which are current in those Countries, which they frequent in great multitudes, which come thither not so much for devotion as traffique, and wee may freely goe thither if wee will. Round about this and upon another Varella were Apes running up and downe, the great and small staires also are full of them. After wee had seene this, at the foot of the first staire when I went downe I turned my face to the left side, and with some Portugals which were in my companie found in a faire Hall a very large Bell, which we measured, and found to be seven paces and three hand bredths, and it is full of Letters from the top to the bottome, and so neere together that one toucheth the other, they are very well and neatly made: but there was no Nation that could understand them, no not the men of Pegu, and they remember not whence, nor how it came thither.

At the evening about one of the clocke at night wee went from this place, and about three we came among some Fishers Nets, which almost shipwrackt us, as they did one of our companie, who being entangled in them went under them, and so was sunke, and this was through the negligence of some Fishers, who when they lay forth such Nets, ought to have a barke with a light or fire all the night to give warning to Saylers, that they come not on that side. But praised be God, we freed our selves in the best manner we could; that day after the Sunne was up wee arrived over against the mouth of Sirian, which is on the South side, where with some difficulty we landed, for the violence of the water drew us into Maccareo. Sirian was an Imperiall Citie, where an Emperour resided, the Walls and Bulwarkes are ruined, by which one may see that it hath beene very strong, and almost impregnable; but Anno 1567. it was subdued by the King of Pegu, who to take it sent a million and an haife of men; and after he had besieged it two yeeres with the losse of halfe a million of his men, he tooke it by treason. Which when the Emperour understood he poisoned himseife, and the rest of his familie were carried away prisoners upon Elephants, who returned in great numbers laden with Gold, Jewels, and other precious things: departing from Sirian we followed our Voyage, seeing many inhabited Townes called by divers names. Finally we came to a place called Meccao, where we disimbarqued to goe by land to Pegu, being about twelve miles. Over against Meccao are certame habitations where the King of Pegu was then for his disport, who causeth there beautiful! gilded vessels to be made, beseeming such a King. From Cosmi to Meccao we were eleven dayes in our Voyage, sayling alwaies by Rivers of fresh water, which ebbe and nowe, and on both sides there are houses and habitations made upon piles planted in the earth, so that the Tigres cannot molest the Inhabitants, they goe up to them upon Ladders made of light wood, which they draw up. Some of the Inhabitants keepe Bufalos in their houses; for they say, that the Tigres will not come neere the places where these beasts are, by reason of their ill favour; they are in these Countries of unmeasurable greatnesse and thicknesse. For the Voyage of Saint Thomas to Pegu, it is good to carrie Bracelets, which they make of glasse in

Saint Thomas, for with these better then with money you may buy victuals, and there in the Citie where you buy them they are sold at a lowe price, but if they are enamelled they sell them deare. The number of Pagods or Varellas which wee saw in this Voyage I write not, for they are innumerable, and in divers shapes ; but I onely say, that on the shoare where wee landed to goe to Dogon, which is made of large strong timbers, are two Statues, which resemble two Boyes from the head downewards, their faces after the likenesse of Devils with two wings. There are some Varellas gilded, and set in faire places, to which they come and offer Gold and other merchandise in great quantitie, to maintayne their gilding, for the raine spoiles it. About these Varellas are found tyed many Apes of that kinde which resemble Mountain-cats, which wee call Monkeyes; they keepe them very carefully, holding them to be creatures beloved of God, because they have their hands and feet like humane creatures; and therefore their Woods are full of them, for they never take any, except for their Varellas and Statues.

There are two Cities of Pegu, the old and the new; in the former Strangers and Merchants inhabite, who are many, and utter great store of merchandise, in this also is the Kings Nobles, and Gentlemen, and other people. The new is not very large, it was built by the father of the present King, on a sudden, in a very neat fashion and with wonderfull strength: The old is very ancient and reasonable great, with many houses made of great caves, and many Magasins of brick to keepe wares in and to speake of the old Citie of Pegu, as of the nobler, because of the Kings residence in it, and of all his Court, you must knowe that the Citie-is pleasantly seated in the altitude of 16 degrees and a third part, it is environed with walls, and hath the forme of a perfit square, and in every square are five gates: round about it are many ditches full of water, which continues all the yeere, and in them are many Crocodiles, which are put there, that if any will wade over these ditches they may be taken and killed.

After that I was provided of a good Druggerman and Interpreter, the noise of Trumpets was heard, which signified wee should see the King and have audience of him, wee entred within the second gate, whereby they goe into the Court-yard, and the Interpreter and I cast our selves upon our knees on the ground, and with our hands elevated in humble wise, and making a shew three times before we rose of kissing the ground; and three other times we did thus before wee came neere to the place where the King sate with his Semini, prostrate on the earth (for no Christian, how neere soever to the King, nor Moorish Captaines, except of his Semini, come in that neere the King) I heard all his Speach, but understood it not: I gave the Emeralds to the Interpreter, who lifted them up over his head, and againe made reverence, of them called Rombee: and as soone as the King saw it, a Nagiran, that is to say, the Lord of his words, or Interpreter, making the like Rombee, tooke the Emeralds, and gave them into the Kings hand, and then went out of his presence, who a little while after called him, commanding him as Lord of his words, that he should asks mee what Countriman I was, how many yeeres it was since I left my Countrie, and what was my name, and from what place I had brought those Emeralds, and I with the accustomed Rombee (for at every word they speake they must make such an obeisance) answered that my name was Gaspar Baibi, that I had beene in my Voyage foure yeeres, and that I brought the Emeralds from Venice to give his Majestic, the fame of whose bountie, courtesie and greatnesse was spread over the world, and especially in our parts, to be the greatest King in the world; all this was written in their letters, and read by the Lord of his words to his Majestie. He commanded to aske me in what parts Venice was seated, and what King governed it; and I told him that it was in the Kingdome of Italic, and that it was a Republike or free State, not governed by any King.

When the King heard this, he greatly wondered; so that he began to laugh so exceedingly, that hee was overcome of the cough, which made him that hee could hardly speake to his Great men. Lastly, hee demanded, if that King which last tooke Portugall were as great, and if Venice were warlike. To which I answered, that King Philip that had taken Portugall was the potentest King among the Christians, and that the Venetians were in league with him, but had no feare of any, yet sought friendship with all. And then I reported the overthrow which the Venetians gave the Emperour of the Turkes. Ametbi, who at that time was at Mecca, confirmed this to be true of the defeat of the Turkish Armado. Then he gave me a Cup of gold, and five pieces of China Damaske of divers colours, and bad them tell me, that he gave me these, and did not so pay me for my Emeralds, for which I should be contented of his publike Terrecas, which are his Treasurers. This was holden for novelty with them that saw it, for it was not the Kings custome to present any thing to any. Moreover, the King ordered that for the wares which I had brought, the Decacini should not make me pay any Taxe or Custome.

The King nourisheth at his charges more then eight hundred domesticall Elephants of warre; but for wilde ones they may have as many as they will, for the Woods are full of them. The Bufalos of this Countrie are of berettine colour, but so great, that they are like Elephants.

There are other creatures as with us, and many also of other kinds. When he goeth to his recreations solemnely, or in his Robes, foure white Elephants goe before him vested with Gold, having their teeth inclosed in a sheath wrought with Jewels. The King of Pegu hath great store of Artillarie of all sorts; but he wants men to manage them, he might make as many Gallies, Foists & Galleassts as he would, if he had men to governe them, and to make them, and therefore makes none: yet when he undertakes any enterprise, he carries with him small Ordnance, which are governed by certaine Gunners, Moores of Bengala, of whom, as of strangers, he hath small confidence.

The King of Avva, being subject to the King of Pegu, and Brother to his Father, had a purpose to make himselfe Master of his Nephewes Kingdome, and to make himselfe King, because he was the ancients of the Royall branch; therefore at the Inauguration of the present King, he would not come to doe him homage as he ought, and as other Kings and Dukes his subjects did; he did not onely absent himselfe, but also kept backe the Present of Jewels which he was wont to give, and restrained also the trade from his Countrie to Pegu, not suffering any Merchant to passe, but sought to conspire with his chiefe Courtiers against the King of Pegu, who as a good Nephew dissembled it, the said King of Avva being recommended to him from his Father before his death. Finally, the King of Pegu, willing to cleare himselfe of the ill will conceived against the King of Avva his Uncle, sent one of his houshold servants to him, who was slaine by the King of Avva because of the warre, trusting that the Grandes of the Kingdome of Pegu would favour his part, and revolt from their naturall Lord, to set Him in his place. Therefore the King of Pegu proclaimed warre against Avva, and called to him his Bagnia and Semini, and gave order to his Decagini, that as they came he should put them in prison; which being performed by the Decagini, the King ordained that the morning following they should make an eminent and spacious Scaffold, and cause all the Grandes to come upon it, and then set fire to it, and burne them all alive. But to shew that he did this with Justice, he sent another mandate, that he should doe nothing till he had an Olla or Letter written with his hand in letters of gold, and in the meane time he commanded him to retaine all the prisoners of the Grandes families unto the women great with child, and those which were in their swaddling clothes, and so he brought them all together upon the said Scaffold; and the King sent the Letter that he should burne them, and the Decagini performed it, and burned them all, so that there was heard

nothing but weepings, shriekings, cryings, and sobbings: for there were foure thousand in this number which were so burned great and small, for which execution were publike Guards placed by the King, and all of the old and new Citie were forced to assist them; I also went thither, and saw it with great compassion and griefe, that little children without any fault should suffer such martyrdome, and among others there was one of his chiefe Secretaries, who was last put in to be burned, yet was freed by the Kings order; but his legge was begunne to be burnt, so that he was lame.

And after followed this order from his Majestic, that those other Captaines which remained should come to him, and he said to them, You have seene what we have done to Traitors, but be faithfull, and set in order all the people as you can, for I am a Captaine that warre justly, going without any feare of not overcoming: and so on a sudden, and within few dayes, he gathered together out of both the Cities more then three hundred thousand persons, and encamped without the Citie. Ten dayes after that I saw the King upon an Elephant all over covered with Gold and Jewels, goe to the warre with great courage, with a Sword after our custome sent him by the Vice-roy of Goa, the hilt whereof was gilded: the said Vice-roy was called Don Luis di Zuیدا: he left the white Elephants in the Citie.

After that, the King fell sicke of the small poxe, but when he was well, he encountered with the King of Avva, and they two fought, body to body without any hinderance of the Armies; who being equally matched, as their use is, combated bravely, as did also the Guard of this King with that of the other, and after the Kings had fought a while hand to hand, first with Harquebusses, then with Darts, and lastly with the Sword, the Elephant of the King of Pegu brake his right tooth with charging that of Awa, in which, furie he so coupled with the other Elephant, that the King of Pegu killed the King of Avva, and he remained lightly wounded on one arme, and in the meane while his Elephant fell dead under him, and the King of Pegu mounted upon that of Awa. But when the Armie of Avva saw their King dead, they ceased to fight, and demanded pardon of the King of Pegu, who with a joyfull countenance praising their valour pardoned them all, and making a muster, found that of three hundred thousand which hee brought from Pegu, there died in that battell more then 200000. and little lesse of those of Avva.

After this victorie he ordered that Avva should be destroyed, and all the people made prisoners, among which was the Queene taken prisoner, who was sister of the King of Pegu, and confined, during her life in a large house with many royall attendants; but shee agreed never to goe forth. The rest of the Citizens were banished to live in Woods among Tigres, and other creatures, and this was because the King of Pegu could not finde the great treasure which the King of Avva had. This warre was in the beginning of the moneth of Aprill, when in that Countrie fall great store of raines, causing great cold in a place called Meccao; and the fourteenth day of July, in sixe dayes he returned unexpectedly to Pegu, not finding the Citie with those guards which his Majestic had appointed, but at the request of the Prince his sonne he did no other justice.

At this his arrivall he understood, that when hee was at the warre, there was arrived under excuse to come to his favour in the old Citie of Pegu the sonne of the Emperour of Silon (or Siam) with fifty Elephants of warre, and eight hundred Horses, besides Harquebussers, Pikemen, and Souldiers with swords, who were sent towards Avva by the great Brama; but in stead of taking his way towards that coast he returned to Silon.

In the mean time was brought into Pegu the Elephant of the King of Avva, which was so much discontented, that all the day long he mourned, I my selfe saw him lament, and that hee would eate but very little; and this I saw in the lodging where the King of Pegu was wont to keepe his, where continually were two Semini, that prayed him to eate, and mourne no longer, but be merry, for he was come to serve a King greater then his own.

Notwithstanding the said Elephant would not cease from teares, and alwaies in token of sorrow held down his trunk: and thus he continued the space of 15. dayes, and then he began to eate, to the Kings great content. With the teeth of the Kings Elephant which died in battell by command from his Majestic were made certalne Pagods or Statues, which were layd up to bee kept among the Pagods of gold and silver. After the King made five other of Gonza,¹ which was a marvellous thing to see, for sitting crosse-legged, they were as high as a strong man could fling a stone, and they were ingraved fairely and curiously: one toe of the foot was greater than a man, and the said Pagods were set in publike before the Palace, and bespangled with gold.

The warre of Avva being now finished, the King of Silon, who was subject to the King of Pegu, sent one to his Majestie to tell him, that it grieved him that a slave had given answer to his some, whom he had sent to aide the King himselfe, and therefore now he made no more account of him, nor held him for his Lord; therefore the King of Pegu sent forth a great Armie against Silon, under the conduct of the great Brama, who after he had lost many people through the heat; & through the great fortitude of Silon, could obtaine nothing of him but this, that if the King of Pegu would come to the campe he would reverence him, but he would not yeeld himselfe to his inferior; and the King of Pegu answered, that he would have his least slave subdue his subject. Although they kept a straight siege against Silon, yet the Citie stood it out manfully. It hath beene an Imperiall Citie; the houses are of timber, built high because of the overflowing of the River. In Winter every house hath a Boat to transport their people from one side of the River to the other: there are many houses of poore people made upon great planks with edifices of wood or great canes built on them, which they guide whither they will, to buy and sell any sort of merchandise, which is exercised by women, who when a ship comes to that place, doe not unlade it; but goe themselves upon these Rafts to negotiate, buy and sell. The people of Silon are Gentiles, as those of Pegu, they are white and beautiful; they feare not to bee overcome by the King of Pegu after this manner; for his father brought them to his obedience, going in person, and accompanied with eight hundred thousand men, neither had he taken it, if it had not beene by treason, by opening a Gate, there were many Portugals then taken prisoners, who were freed by the present King of Pegu, with commendations for doing what the King of Silon commanded them. In the meane time there was a great fire kindled in a street of the Portugals in Pegu, by the diversitie of winds which blew, it burned more then 3800. houses, and some Pagods, and praying places: and because it is a custome, that the King of Pegu in such cases proceeds against those which are authors of such a fire, there was search made who kindled the fire, and he was certified, that it was in the house of a Portugall Pilot which brought us to the Citie. The King made no shew of judging this to have beene for malice: but we were in continuall feare of burning, and so much the rather, because one of the Kings Diviners told him, that if hee would have the victorie of Silon, hee must burne a Citie, as his father did; and therefore we doubted that hee would destroy this old Citie of Pegu; but he was dissuaded from it by the Prince his sonne, who is very courteous and pleasant, and much delighted in discharging Harquebusses, and to shoot in Bowes, hee is of great stature, and browne, as his father; when

¹ Gonza is a mixt metall of brasse and tin whereof they make money.

he goes abroad he is carried up in a Palamkin very pompously (as his other three little brothers are also) under a Cloth of state openly.